

Chairperson's Statement On The Request For Passive Quotas By Acceding States

In accordance with Article III, Section I, paragraphs 2 and 4 and Article III, Section II and Article X, paragraph 4 (D) and Article XVII and Annex A, Section I of the Treaty on Open Skies and subsequent pertinent decisions, as well as OSCC.Dec/8/02/Corr.1, Section 3 on the Guidelines for accession to the Treaty,

1. The allocation of passive quotas is one of the mechanisms whereby the Treaty's aim of providing transparency, security and building confidence between the States Parties is achieved. A State may request an allocation of a passive quota and the level of this quota at the moment of application for accession to the Treaty or anytime thereafter until the date of the OSCC plenary meeting following the deposit of its instrument of accession. In the absence of a specific request made by a State, the OSCC shall, in co-operation with that State, take the necessary steps to allocate a passive quota. In both cases the allocation of a passive quota shall be considered by the OSCC during the regular session of the OSCC following the date of the deposit of its instrument of accession. An OSCC decision shall then be adopted and take effect upon entry into force of the Treaty for that acceding State.

2. The acceding State should consider an appropriate level of passive quotas to meet the Treaty's goals of openness and transparency. The acceding State when requesting a level of passive quota, should take into account the existing allocation of passive quotas as set forth in Annex A and subsequent pertinent OSCC Decisions. Passive quotas allocated to existing States Parties and groups of States Parties have ranged from 2 to 42. In all but one case, four or more passive quotas were allocated.

Other elements to be considered, *inter alia*, as appropriate by the State when making the request:

- Its geographical size and location;
- Its military capabilities, to include infrastructure and armed forces.

3. Only States Parties holding passive quotas may form a group of States Parties. Quota provisions for groups of States Parties as stipulated by Article III, Section II are applicable. In the case of a group of States Parties established pursuant to Article III, Section II, paragraph 3 the OSCC, in co-operation with the States Parties concerned, shall allocate a common total passive quota.